THE HERALD.

AGRICULTURAL.

For the Hartford Herald.

THEORETICAL FARMING.

The method of farming has, perhaps, been more fully discussed, more minutely patronized, more completely dissected, than all other callings or professions in which men are engaged, from the fact that it is a science that all, from the king to the vassal, are perfectly familiar with. I exclude none, of any calling whatever, except the farmer himself, who of course, has no chance of informing himself, no time for concocting fine theories, his physical nature being overdone by his daily exertions; his mind likewise—if we admit he has one—is in an inactive state, not capable of comprehending an idea or reflecting upon the best course for him to pursue in future, in order to receive just and lucrative remuneration for his toil.

He refers to the past season, his experiments, etc.; contemplates his failures, but how to remedy these defects in future he is at an utter loss to comprehend. With this state of affairs, he, of course, loses all hope, and is fast hastening down the sea of ruin without a rudder or anchor, and is sure without aid to be dashed to pieces on the iron arm of the broker. But such aid and counsel is sure to come in lavish streams to cheer him on in his work of toil, which is lighted and his hopes buoyed up just in proportion to the leisure of his counselor, who, if he is strictly a man of leisure, is the better prepared to give advice. He has not only his own mind, which is in no wise paralyzed by over-exertion of the physical attainments, therefore his intellect is clear and lucid, quick to comprehend and explain the whys and wherefores of his slothful friends' failures. But he has also the benefit of his fellow-loafers' opinions, which, combined with his own, explain the whole and form a beautiful theory. And if he happens to be a frequent visitor to the saloons,, he has his ideas greatly intensified just in proportion to his desire and capacity of the tub—to say nothing of the benefit his tongue receives—which all admit goes freer and smoother the oftener greased.

If a desponding farmer thinks he cannot be cheered and enlivened, and also learn the causes of his defeats, let him but try it on. But be sure you go among men of leisure—the less they have to occupy their minds the better. Don't go to the lawyer or doctor gets a good practice, or to a merchant who has a good trade—and just so with other professions and occupations, for they have business of their own to occupy their minds and expect pay for their time, but go to him who is of a more charitable nature, and does not expect pay for what he can so readily give without at all trespassing upon his own time or neglecting his own business.

When you are sure you have got all the advice you can get from one crowd, go to another; the more chances the better, for what one crowd of your liberal friends has forgotten, another will think of, for different theorists have different theories. One, for example, studies the best mode of improving old lands, another the best and cheapest mode of fencing, another turns his mind to the culture of tobacco, another to corn, another to wheat, etc. And if you have taken the interest your welfare demands, you have taken note of what you have heard in reference to the sowing, planting, cultivating, housing and disposing of your effects; when and how and where to sell, read it at your leisure, and then carry it into practice; always bearing in mind that all of your theoretical friends agree that the chief stumbling-block in the way is want of energy, therefore if you have been in the habit of only working twelve hours a day, increase your labor to twenty-four. for all likewise agree that you don't work half enough. Never mind the head work, your friends will attend to that for you. If you live too far from town to go in on Sundays to get posted, read the almanacs, gather what other information you can get from political, literary, or religious newspapers—written by the editors or some one whom you know has never worked on a farm: for if he has, his mind, of course, is impaired and his advice unsound.

Let us now attempt to read, in fact, what you have noted down—remembering that most all agree that one hundred acres are enough land for one man; and that hired labor don't pay.

Mr. A—— dont think raising tobacco will pay, but thinks *that* one the chief cause of your defeat; says that you must sow more grass, raise stock, and thereby improve your farm; you ought to have at least thirty acres in meadow, twenty-five in wheat, twenty in oats, raise less corn, say about fifteen acres; raise more vegetables, onions, potatoes, cabbage, for all these pay well; plant a few acres of each. Be sure and take good care of your timber, for it will be in great demand some day, and you ought to leave at least twenty-five acres. Don't run your land so close; you ought not to cultivate more than once in four years, and then manure what you do cultivate: sow more clover and other fertilizers. This is all good advice, as you know, if you will but carry it into practice. Never mind if your land don't hold out, your friend is better in figures than you. Now for the estimate: your thirty acres of grass will yield at least two tons per acre if your land is good, if not you can easily make it so with a few wagon loads of manure—and that would be sixty tons, for which you can readily realize from $10 to $15 per ton: but say $10, that would be $600. Well, if you will manure well your twenty-five acres of wheat, you will get at least twenty bushels per acre, which would be five hundred bushels, which you can safely estimate at $1,00 per bushel, making $500 for your wheat. All of you farmers sow wheat too late. You ought to sow in September. Well you can raise at least forty bushels of oats per acre. Eight hundred acres will be the product, you can put that at 50 cents per bushel, $160. Your fifteen acres of corn will make you six hundred bushels, and that at 50 cents per bushel would be $300 more. A sum total of $1,590. to say nothing of your vegetables, which would easily support your family. Who would not be a farmer under such circumstances? He does or could make all the money if he would. His life is the most independent of all occupations. Hot or cold, wet or dry, grasshoppers, army-worms, potato bugs, chinchbugs, cut-worms, wheat and oat rust, hog cholera, etc., affect him not. Don't think of such things, but keep the above figures in your mind if you want to be a successful farmer.

Mr. B—— thinks a little differently. He thinks tobacco is the crop for this country, and that you should turn your attention more to that. We have not time to read what he has to say about its culture, etc. But he says you should top it at the proper time, as much of the growth and texture of the leaf depends on your topping at the right time; thinks you should top it when in full bloom, and throw the tops between the rows; thinks the chief cause of your defeat is that you don't raise the right kind of tobacco. Which, if you are a planter of experience, you know to be the fact; for if you have a light-bodied tobacco, of fine texture, the buyer is sure to tell you that a heavy article is most in demand this year, and *vice versa*, if your crop is different. Your advice does not stop with your polite and courteous friend, the tobacco dealer; but your merchant is likewise deeply interested in your welfare to the extent of at least one-half or five-fourths of your crop, and he tells you that you had better take the first offer you have, as, for years past, the opening of the market has been the best.

But it is needless to give further examples of the various theories and opinions of those who never, perhaps, tried for an hour in their lives the part the farmer acts, but in their fanciful imaginations, have pictured in glowing terms and bright colors the magnificent life of the farmer as he reposes on his couch of eider down, fanned by the soothing zephyrs of luxury and ease,.

We now ask you, as farmers, have you not heard, and that often, such fanciful pictures ot your avocation; together with the causes of your failures and defeats in business, from men and boys who never, perhaps, cultivated a stalk of corn or trained a gourd-vine in their lives? I know you have; and a great deal more; enough, if compiled, to fill a large volume, which, when written, would not be worth the binding. Allow me briefly to give my views in reference to these—what shall I call them?—theorizing dramamateuring farmers. Their advice is, of course, kindly meant, and while I would not say that much cannot be learned by theory, and that a knowledge of the chemical properties of the soil and the fertilizers which we apply to our soils, and of the different manures to apply to the different soils, yet I do say, to make a success of any profession requires a practical knowledge of it, and more especially is agriculture a science by practice. If you want medical advice, you go to a physician of practical experience. Just so with the lawyer, if you want legal advice. The same rule is applicable to all branches and professions. A farmer is not capable of advising the practical surgeon, lawyer or druggist, as to their respective duties, and of suggesting to them what they should or should not do to make their business a success. The same is applicable to the farmers. You cannot conform them to any fixed rules. Their tastes and capacities are diversified. While one delights in the culture of one commodity, another takes greater interest in something else; and while he may be successful so long as he follows the culture of his choice productions, he may fail with those with which his neighbors are even more successful.

For example, one man takes great delight in raising and improving stock. While he may be successful in that line, he might make an utter failure in the culture of tobacco. And just the reverse with one who may take great pride in and make a success of tobacco growing. And as various as the product of the soil of any clime are the tastes and capacities of men.

It should be the chief object of every man to qualify himself for whatever he undertakes. If a farmer, he should acquaint himself not only with the culture of various products, but should also acquaint himself with when and how and where to sell to the best advantage. In other words, learn to attend to his own affairs as others learn to do of theirs. And, if you need advice, those who are in like business with yourself are most in sympathy with you, and best qualified to give it. Go to a farmer of experience, who has made his business a success, and he will readily give you all the advice at his command, and if you want the consolidated advice of your fellow-laborers, join a Grange composed of the best farmers you know of. LABORER.

A Scrap Book.

Every farmer should keep a book in which to paste agricultural scraps. Every one in reading a paper will see things which he will wish to remember. He will perhaps see suggestions the value of which he will desire to test, or hints which he will want to be governed by in future operations. And yet, after reading the paper, he will throw it down, and will probably never see it again. In such a case all the valuable articles will be lost. To prevent such a loss, every reader should clip from the papers such articles as he desires to preserve, and paste them in a scrap book. Such a book, at the end of a year or two, will be interesting and valuable.

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CULTURE OF THE GRAPE.

NUMBER I.

How to Plant the Vines.

As there is considerable interest manifested by some of your citizens in growing this delicious and beautiful fruit, and having been repeatedly requested to give our mode of planting, pruning, cultivating and training the grape, we propose doing so in some half-dozen short asticles, by first planting the vine. Prepare the ground with plow and horrow, or garden-fork, to the depth of ten or twelve inches, turning the top soil underneath, and the subsoil on top, if practicable. Lay off the rows six feet apart with plow, running two or three times in the same furrow, making it a little wider and breaking the ground perfectly. Plant eight or ten feet apart in the rows, digging out a hole with a garden-fork two feet across and one foot deep. Then fill up the hole with the richest soil you can procure, (not manure) six inches deep, leaving it highest in the center, so the roots will incline downwards. Cut of all roots to one foot in length, and all canes or sprouts from the plants, leaving the strongest and straightest cane of last year's growth, and cut *it* off two or three buds above the old wood. Place the plant in the hole and spread the roots out all around. Fill in two or three inches of light loose soil and press down firmly with your foot. The weight of a man will not pack it too hard unless the ground is wet. In that event, plants should not be set, but buried until the ground dries out. Fill up the hole and the job is completed. No stakes are needed. The first year grow one or two canes only, rubbing off all other sprouts. Cut back to two or three sprouts the following February, and grow only two canes the second season.

Training and pruning next week.

J. B. C.

How to Grow Tobacco.

In order to raise tobacco successfully, the first thing that is to be done is to prepare well for plants. Let your seed be sown in new ground which has been burnt with brush and wood so as to kill all grass and other seeds which may intrude upon the young tobacco plants. Be particular not to burn your beds when it is too wet, as this has a tendency to kill the ground and prevent the growth of the plants. When your beds cool off dig them up lightly and pulverize the soil well, mixing in what ashes may be on the ground. Then sow your seed, about one tablespoonful to ten yards square, and cover the seed with a rake, and then cover the bed with brush so as to prevent its drying by winds or too much sun. Beds do best in wood-land.

In March re-sow your bed with one-half the quantity of seed used at the first sewing. Your plants should be ready to commence setting the 1st f May.

Next let your ground be rich and thoroughly broken up and pulverized. Then make small hills, from 2 to 3½ feet each way. One plant is "stuck" in each hill whenever you have a "season" or sufficient rain to moisten the ground.

After your tobacco is set then it must be well cultivated until it gets large enough to top at eight or ten leaves, when you cease to cultivate and spend the balance of your time in "topping, worming and suckering," which continue until the tobacco is ripe. There is never more than two sets of suckers on the same plant, but the "crop of worms" last all the year, unless they are picked off very closely as fast as the eggs are deposited.

Tobacco ripens from 90 to 110 days after planting. If cut before 90 days it will be green and bitter. When ripe, it becomes crisp, and will crack when rumpled between the thumb and finger.

After it is ripe it must be cut and housed, or, if you can do so, scaffold it for a few days till it yellows, then house, and fire or smoke it until the stems are cured.

Your tobacco being cured, it only remains to strip and prize in the hogsheads for market. This requires skill and practice, lest you have it "out of order," that is, either "too high" or "too low" in order, either of which injures its sale.

The stem of the leaf should crack two-thirds of its length when tobacco is just right for prizing. Neat handling pays better in this than in any other crop.

Farmers in Debt.

The Southern papers are discanting on the ruin sure to follow getting in debt, to carry on farming operations. One farmer, who stopped asking and giving credit, a few years ago, records it as his experience that he can now buy more than he ever bought before, and sell more. This case is mentioned of the French, who never got in debt, and who, having been saving money since the days of the First Napoleon, have become the richest nation in the world; which is proven by the fact that the German indemnity of a thousand millions of dollars which they were obliged to pay was all discharged in two years, while we have been struggling for nine years with twice as much. Perhaps the wealth of the French farmers arises as much from the small farm system and the high cultivation they give the soil. There is a vast difference between farming in a loose way and having all the work done in the best manner.

Farmers' Clubs or Granges.

Encourage these. Do not grow lukewarm as their novelty wears off. If you do not belong to one, join one. If there is none in your vicinity, go to work to raise one. Call on a few of your live farmers to join you; discuss it, put your plans into operatian, and go ahead.

Sowing Clover Seed.

The plan of sowing clover seed on the snow, when there is any on the grain fields this month, is one which has many advantages. The seeds can be distributed very regularly, and the snow in melting carries them down in the crevices of the soil, where they are ready to germinate. If not so sown, it is preferable to wait until the frost is out of the ground and lightly harrow them in, and roll. On most soil a bushel of seed is sufficient to sow five acres. In the South, fall sowing is believed to be preferable. A good article from a practical hand was given in last month's Farmer, on getting a set of clover, which it will be worth while again to refer to. The value of clover as a forage plant and a fertilizer begins to be more and more appreciated, and enterprising farmers all through the South, in sections where it was formerly supposed it would not flourish, are giving practical demonstrations to the country.—*Southern Farmer.*

Orchards.

If you intend to plant one in spring, you may be able to forward the work by doing some of it now. You may have a chance to plow the ground. If you have not your trees on hand, do not delay to make your list and send it to a reliable nurseryman. Take no risk on your trees. Buy from parties of known character. It is not wise to deal with itinerant tree-pedlers, and in selecting kinds it is wise to consult the experience of those of your neighbors whose fruit does well.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

CABBAGE WORM.—After trying various remedies, we have found boiling hot water from a watering pot, the simplest, easiest and most effective mode of destroying the cabbage worm. If applied quickly and not too long on the leaves, it produces no injury. It is easily repeated as occasions requires.

FAMILY GLUE.—We make our glue in the following way: Crack up the glue and put it in a bottle; add to it common whisky; shake up, cork tight, and in three or four days it can be used. It requires no beating, will keep for almost any time, and is at all times ready to use except in the coldest of weather, when it will require warming. It must be kept tight, so that the whisky will not evaporate. The usual corks or stoppers should not be used. It will become clogged A tin stopper, covering the bottle but fitting as closely as possible, must be used.

STAIR CARPETS.—To prevent the pile from spreading at the edge of the stair and wearing off, pads are used; these are made of a low grade of cotton, covered with the cheapest muslin. A quilt or comfort that has seen service will answer the purpose of stair pads. In addition to increasing the lease of usefulness of the carpet, the pads prevent noisy clattering of the feet, and, in case the baby should fall down stairs, the injury received would be materially lessened. When first laid down the carpet should be several inches longer than needed, that it may be disposed of after each shaking, so that a fresh place may come to all the edges. A wisp or small dusting broom is the best for sweeping stair carpets. After thorough sweeping, a wet cloth may be used to good advantage in removing all dust,

CURE FOR DIPTHERIA.—The ravages of diptheria in Australia have been so extensive within the last few years that the Government offered a large reward for any certain method of cure; and among other responses to this was one by Mr. Greathead, who at first kept his method a secret, but afterwards committed it freely to the public. It is simply the use of sulphuric acid, of which four drops are diluted in three-fourths of a tumbler of water, to be administered to a grown person, and a smaller dose to children, at intervals not specified. The result is said to be a coagulation of the diptheritic membrane, and its removing by coughing. It is asserted that where the case thus treated has not advanced to a nearly fatal termination, the patient recovered in almost every instance.

COLD SLAW.—Yelks of two eggs; a tablesdoonful of cream; a small teaspoonful of mustard; a little salt; two tablespoonfuls of vinegar. If cream is not used, put in a small lump of butter rubbed in a little flour. Cut the cabbage very fine: heat the mixture, and pour it on hot.

THE CHILDREN'S PUDDING.—Quarter of a pound of suet, quarter of a pound of flour, quarter of a pound of currants, two ounces of sugar, two teaspoonfuls of molasses, juice and peel of one lemon, milk. Boil in mould three hours.